

Assistance to U.P. for Repairing Roads Damaged by Earthquake

*312. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have provided any financial assistance to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for repairing the roads in hilly areas damaged by the recent earthquake; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b). Under the existing scheme of financing relief expenditure in force from 1.4.1990, there is an annual allocation of Rs. 90.00 crores under Calamity Relief fund of Uttar Pradesh consisting of Rs. 67.50 crores Central contribution and Rs. 22.50 crores State contribution. The entire Central contribution for the current year has since been released. Depending on the extent of damage to various sectors, including roads, the State Government can incur expenditure from the corpus of the Calamity Relief Fund on their repairs.

Setting up of Oil Refinery in Rajasthan

*313. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the States where oil refineries have been set up during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up any oil refinery in Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No new refineries

have been set up in last three years.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Anti India Propaganda in Western Countries

*314. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI RABI RAY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Labour party leaders have reiterated that their Government would raise the Kashmir issue in the United Nations to resolve it in conformity with the U.N. resolutions:

(b) if so, reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government are aware of anti-India propaganda in Western countries;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken by the government to counter this anti-India propaganda during 1991, country-wise;

(f) whether the Indian diplomats are greatly affected by this propaganda; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAV SINGH SOLANKI): (a) From time to time, some leaders have been urging that the Kashmir issue should be resolved in conformity with United Nations

Resolutions. However, raising of the Kashmir issue in the UN does not figure in the manifesto of the Labour Party.

(b) Our High Commission in London is in regular contact with the Labour Party leadership and have explained the correct facts as well as the Government's well-known position that the Kashmir issue should be resolved in accordance with the Simla Agreement of 1972.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Extremist and secessionist groups and pro-Pakistani elements have been carrying out anti-India propaganda to get public sympathy and support for their causes.

(e) to (g). The Indian missions in those countries are in regular contact with a wide cross-section of leaders. Indian community leaders, the media and other opinion-makers to brief them on developments in India and our position on various issues. This is a regular and on going exercise in all the countries where anti-India propaganda is being conducted. In addition, the External Affairs Minister and the Minister of State for External Affairs during their recent visits to UK, France, Canada, USA, Germany, Italy met a number of local political leaders as well as media and ethnic organisations to explain our point of view.

Anti-India propaganda has made the job of Indian diplomats to project the image of India abroad more challenging.

Loan Facility to ONGC by Asian Development Bank

*315. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has refused to extend any loan facility

to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission unless its exploration organisation is streamlined;

(b) if so, the specific drawbacks which have been pointed out by the Asian Development Bank; and

(c) the reason of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c): Do not arise.

Exploration of Graphite Deposits in Bihar

*316. SHRI RAM SHARAN YADAV: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted in Khagariya and Ranchi districts of Bihar for exploration of graphite deposits;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for exploration of graphite there; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The information so far available with Geological survey of India (GSI) have not revealed any potential graphite mineralisation in Khagariya and Ranchi districts of Bihar. Presently there is no